

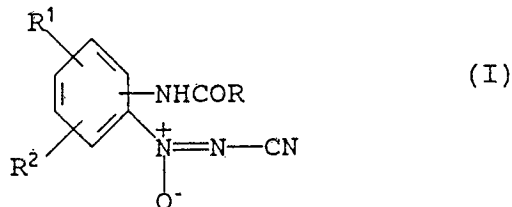


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AZOXYCYANOBENZENE DERIVATIVES
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- (57) Claim

1. A compound of general formula



in which

R represents an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl or heterocyclyl group;

R¹ represents a halogen atom, nitro, cyano or optionally substituted alkyl, alkoxy, aryl or aryloxy group;

and

R² represents a hydrogen or halogen atom, nitro, cyano or optionally substituted alkyl or alkoxy group.

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13. A method of combating fungus at a locus which comprises treating the locus with a compound of general formula I as defined in any one of claims 1 to 6 and 10 or with a composition as defined in claim 11 or claim 12.

AUSTRALIA
PATENTS ACT 1990

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

FOR A STANDARD PATENT

ORIGINAL

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Invention Title: Azoxycyanobenzene Derivatives

The following statement is a full description of this invention, including the best method of performing it known to me/us:-



AZOXYCYANOBENZENE DERIVATIVES

This invention relates to certain azoxycyanobenzene derivatives, processes for their preparation, compositions containing such compounds and their use as fungicides.

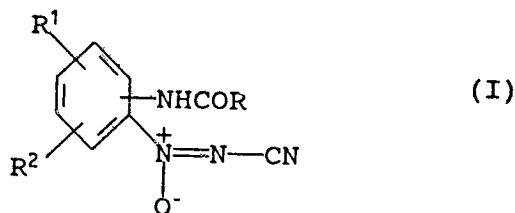
EP-A-0411716 discloses fungicidal compositions which comprise
5 a carrier and, as active ingredient, a compound of the general formula



or an N-oxide thereof, wherein R represents a substituted phenyl group, at least one substituent thereof being a group of general
10 formula $-NR^1COR^2$ where R^1 represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group, and R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkoxy, alkenyl, alkenyloxy, phenyl or phenoxy group; and X represents a cyano group, a group $-COOH$ or a salt, ester or amido derivative thereof. However, in each of the
15 examples, the substituted phenyl group R bears only one substituent, that being of formula $-NR^1COR^2$.

It has now been discovered that certain azoxycyanobenzene derivatives, which bear at least two substituents on the benzene ring in addition to the azoxycyano group, exhibit good activity
20 against certain phytopathogenic fungi.

According to the present invention there is therefore provided a compound of the general formula



in which R represents an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl or heterocyclyl group; R¹ represents a halogen atom, nitro, cyano or optionally substituted alkyl, alkoxy, aryl or aryloxy group; and R² represents a hydrogen or halogen atom, nitro, cyano or optionally substituted alkyl or alkoxy group.

When the compounds of this invention contain an alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl substituent group, this may be linear or branched and may contain up to 12, preferably up to 6 and especially up to 4, carbon atoms. Cycloalkyl or cycloalkenyl groups may contain 3 to 8, preferably 3 to 6, carbon atoms. An aryl group may be any aromatic hydrocarbon group, especially a phenyl or naphthyl group. A heterocyclyl group may be any saturated or unsaturated ring system containing at least one heteroatom, 3- to 6-membered rings being preferred and 5- and 6-membered rings being especially preferred. Nitrogen-, oxygen- and sulphur-containing heterocyclic rings, such as pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrrolidinyl, furyl, pyranyl, morpholinyl and thienyl, are particularly preferred.

When any of the foregoing substituents are designated as being optionally substituted, the substituent groups which are optionally present may be any one or more of those customarily employed in the development of pesticidal compounds, and/or the modification of such compounds to influence their structure/ activity, persistence, penetration or other property. Specific examples of such substituents include, for example, halogen atoms, nitro, cyano, hydroxyl, alkyl, haloalkyl, alkoxy, haloalkoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, formyl, alkoxy-carbonyl, carboxyl, alkanoyl, cycloalkyl, alkylthio, alkylsulphinyl, alkylsulphonyl, carbamoyl and alkylamido groups. When any of the foregoing substituents represents or contains an alkyl substituent group, this may be linear or branched and may contain up to 12, preferably up to 6, and especially up to 4, carbon atoms. Typically, 0-3 substituents may be present, most commonly 0 or 1.

Preferably, R represents a C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, C₃₋₈ cycloalkenyl or phenyl group or a 3- to 6- membered

heterocyclic ring, each group or ring being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halogen atoms, nitro, cyano, hydroxyl, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ haloalkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, C₁₋₄ haloalkoxy, amino, C₁₋₄ alkylamino, di-C₁₋₄ alkylamino, C₁₋₄ alkoxy carbonyl and C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl groups.

More preferably, R represents a C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₄ alkenyl, C₃₋₆ cycloalkenyl or phenyl group or a 5- to 6- membered heterocyclic ring (especially an oxygen-containing ring), each group or ring being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halogen (especially fluorine and chlorine) atoms, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, C₁₋₄ alkoxy carbonyl and C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl groups.

It is preferred that R¹ represents a halogen atom, a nitro or cyano group, or a C₁₋₆ alkyl or C₁₋₆ alkoxy group each optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halogen atoms, nitro, cyano, hydroxyl and amino groups.

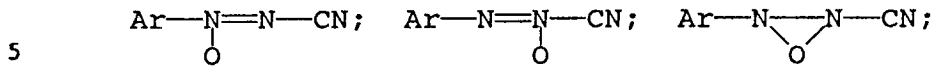
More preferably, R¹ represents a halogen (especially chlorine) atom, a cyano group, or a C₁₋₄ alkyl (especially methyl) or C₁₋₄ alkoxy (especially methoxy) group each optionally substituted (but preferably unsubstituted) by one or more halogen (especially fluorine or chlorine) atoms.

It is also preferred that R² represents a hydrogen or halogen (especially chlorine) atom.

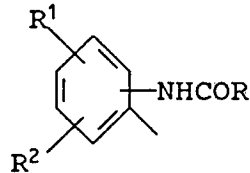
Preferably, the group -NHCOR is attached to the 3- or, especially, 4- position of the benzene ring in the azoxycyanobenzene moiety. It is also preferred that R¹ is attached at the 4- or, especially 3- position and that R² is attached at the 5- position.

A particularly preferred sub-group of compounds of formula I is that in which R represents a methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, pentyl, chloromethyl, chloroethyl, bromoethyl, ethoxycarbonylmethyl, cyclopentylethyl, propenyl, trimethylcyclohexenyl, difluorophenyl, trimethoxyphenyl or furanyl group; R¹ represents a chlorine atom or a cyano, methyl or methoxy group; and R² represents a hydrogen or chlorine atom.

It should also be noted that compounds of general formula I could be in any of the following isoelectronic forms:-



where Ar represents

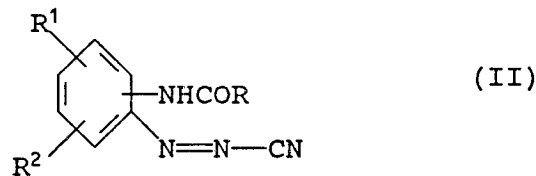


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, and the scope of the present invention covers all such forms.

The present invention also provides a process for the preparation of a compound of formula I as defined above which comprises treating a compound of general formula

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in which R, R¹ and R² are as defined above, with a mixture comprising hydrogen peroxide and methanoic acid and/or with peroxyethanoic acid.

25 Where a mixture of hydrogen peroxide and methanoic acid is used, the concentration of the hydrogen peroxide is suitably less than about 75wt%, preferably less than about 50wt% and, more preferably, less than 40wt%. In a preferred embodiment the concentration of hydrogen peroxide is about 30wt%.

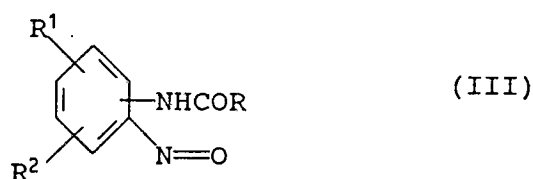
30 The process is preferably carried out at or above, more preferably, above, ambient temperature. The process may be carried out at a temperature in the range from 25°C to 75°C, preferably in the range from 30°C to 50°C.

35 Preferably, the compound of general formula II is mixed with methanoic acid and hydrogen peroxide at ambient temperature. The

mixture is preferably then heated, suitably at about 60°C, for a number of hours. The mixture may then be cooled, for instance, in an ice bath. The desired product may then be isolated by standard techniques.

5 A general process for the preparation of compounds of formula II is provided by R.J.W. LeFevre and H. Vine, J. Chem. Soc., (1938), 431.

The present invention further provides an alternative process for the preparation of a compound of formula I as defined above
10 which comprises reacting a compound of general formula



in which R, R¹ and R² are as defined above, with cyanamide or a metal salt thereof and an oxidising agent.

20 The oxidising agent may be any compound which, in conjunction with cyanamide or a metal salt thereof, generates a cyanonitrene. Preferred examples include iodobenzene diacetate, dibromoisocyanuric acid and cyclic or linear N-halogen or pseudohalogen amides or imides, especially N-bromosuccinimide.

25 If a metal salt of cyanamide is used in the process of the invention, it is preferred that the metal salt is an alkali metal salt or an alkaline earth metal salt. Alternatively, such metal salts can be generated in situ by reacting cyanamide with an alkali metal hydroxide or an alkaline earth metal hydroxide. The use of monosodium cyanamide is especially preferred. Alternatively, this
30 may be replaced by a concentrated aqueous solution of cyanamide with sodium hydroxide which effectively generates monosodium cyanamide in situ.

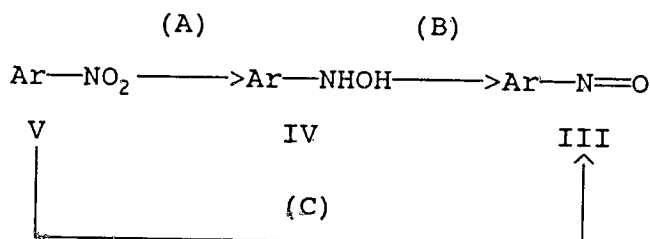
Suitably, the reaction takes place in the presence of an organic solvent, preferably dimethylformamide or a halogenated
35 hydrocarbon, for example, dichloromethane. The reaction is

preferably effected at a temperature in the range from -20°C to 50°C.

A compound of formula III may be prepared as follows, where Ar is as defined above:-

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Reaction A may, for example, be effected by reaction of the nitro compound with hydrazine hydrate, in the presence of a hydrogen transfer catalyst, for example rhodium on carbon, suitably in the presence of an inert polar organic solvent, for example, tetrahydrofuran, preferably with cooling; or be effected using water, stannous chloride as reducing agent, an inert, polar organic solvent, for example tetrahydrofuran, under an inert atmosphere, for example nitrogen, in the presence of sodium acetate, suitably at ambient temperature.

Reaction B may suitably be effected by treatment of the hydroxylamine derivative with an oxidising agent, for example an Fe^{3+} compound, suitably ferric chloride. The reaction may be effected in a mixed water/polar organic solvent, preferably with cooling.

Reaction C may be effected by irradiating the nitro compound, which is preferably dissolved in an inert organic solvent, for example benzene. The irradiation may be effected using a medium pressure mercury lamp.

Details of the above processes may be found in applicants' EP application 645,373 and WO 94/12470 co-pending ~~European patent applications nos. 92120580.3 and 93-8009 EPC.~~ Other methods suitable for preparing compounds of formula I, and further descriptions of the methods described herein, may be found in The Journal of Antibiotics, Jan. 1975,



p.87-90 and June 1986, p.864-868; in Eur.J.Med.Chem.-Chim.Ther., 1982, 17, No. 5, p.482 -484, and 1980, 15, No.5, p.475-478, and 1977, 12, No.1, p.59-62; in J.Chem.Soc.,Chem.Comm., 1984, p.323-324; in Chem.Ind. (Milan), 1977, 59(5), p.385; in Gazzetta Chimica Italiana, 106, 1976, p.1107-1110; in Tetrahedron Letters, No. 38, 1974, p. 3431-3432; and in U.S. Patents Nos. 4558040 and 4550121.

The compounds of general formula I have been found to have fungicidal activity. Accordingly, the invention further provides a fungicidal composition which comprises a carrier and, as active ingredient, a compound of formula I as defined above. A method of making such a composition is also provided which comprises bringing a compound of formula I as defined above into association with at least one carrier. Such a composition may contain a single compound or a mixture of several compounds of the present invention.

A composition according to the invention preferably contains from 0.5 to 95% by weight of active ingredient.

A carrier in a composition according to the invention is any material with which the active ingredient is formulated to facilitate application to the locus to be treated, which may for example be a plant, seed or soil, or to facilitate storage, transport or handling. A carrier may be a solid or a liquid, including a material which is normally gaseous but which has been compressed to form a liquid, and any of the carriers normally used in formulating fungicidal compositions may be used.

Suitable solid carriers include natural and synthetic clays and silicates, for example natural silicas such as diatomaceous earths; magnesium silicates, for example talcs; magnesium aluminium silicates, for example attapulgites and vermiculites; aluminium silicates, for example kaolinites, montmorillonites and micas; calcium carbonate; calcium sulphate; ammonium sulphate; synthetic hydrated silicon oxides and synthetic calcium or aluminium silicates; elements, for example carbon and sulphur; natural and synthetic resins, for example coumarone resins, polyvinyl chloride,

and styrene polymers and copolymers; solid polychlorophenols; bitumen; waxes, for example beeswax, paraffin wax, and chlorinated mineral waxes; and solid fertilisers, for example superphosphates.

Suitable liquid carriers include water; alcohols, for example
5 isopropanol and glycols; ketones, for example acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, methyl isobutyl ketone and cyclohexanone; ethers; aromatic or araliphatic hydrocarbons, for example benzene, toluene and xylene; petroleum fractions, for example, kerosine and light mineral oils; chlorinated hydrocarbons, for example carbon
10 tetrachloride, perchloroethylene and trichloroethane. Mixtures of different liquids are often suitable.

Fungicidal compositions are often formulated and transported in a concentrated form which is subsequently diluted by the user before application. The presence of small amounts of a carrier
15 which is a surface-active agent facilitates this process of dilution. Thus preferably at least one carrier in a composition according to the invention is a surface-active agent. For example the composition may contain at least two carriers, at least one of which is a surface-active agent.

20 A surface-active agent may be an emulsifying agent, a dispersing agent or a wetting agent; it may be nonionic or ionic. Examples of suitable surface-active agents include the sodium or calcium salts of polyacrylic acids and lignin sulphonic acids; the condensation products of fatty acids or aliphatic amines or amides
25 containing at least 12 carbon atoms in the molecule with ethylene oxide and/or propylene oxide; fatty acid esters of glycerol, sorbitol, sucrose or pentaerythritol; condensates of these with ethylene oxide and/or propylene oxide; condensation products of fatty alcohol or alkyl phenols, for example p-octylphenol or
30 p-octylcresol, with ethylene oxide and/or propylene oxide; sulphates or sulphonates of these condensation products; alkali or alkaline earth metal salts, preferably sodium salts, of sulphuric or sulphonic acid esters containing at least 10 carbon atoms in the molecule, for example sodium lauryl sulphate, sodium secondary
35 alkyl sulphates, sodium salts of sulphonated castor oil, and sodium

alkylaryl sulphonates such as dodecylbenzene sulphonate; and polymers of ethylene oxide and copolymers of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide.

The compositions of the invention may for example be
5 formulated as wettable powders, dusts, granules, solutions, emulsifiable concentrates, emulsions, suspension concentrates and aerosols. Wettable powders usually contain 25, 50 or 75% w of active ingredient and usually contain in addition to solid inert carrier, 3-10% w of a dispersing agent and, where necessary, 0-10%
10 w of stabiliser(s) and/or other additives such as penetrants or stickers. Dusts are usually formulated as a dust concentrate having a similar composition to that of a wettable powder but without a dispersant, and may be diluted in the field with further solid carrier to give a composition usually containing ½-10% w of
15 active ingredient. Granules are usually prepared to have a size between 10 and 100 BS mesh (1.676 - 0.152 mm), and may be manufactured by agglomeration or impregnation techniques. Generally, granules will contain ½-75% w active ingredient and 0-10% w of additives such as stabilisers, surfactants, slow release
20 modifiers and binding agents. The so-called "dry flowable powders" consist of relatively small granules having a relatively high concentration of active ingredient. Emulsifiable concentrates usually contain, in addition to a solvent and, when necessary, co-solvent, 1-50% w/v active ingredient, 2-20% w/v emulsifiers and
25 0-20% w/v of other additives such as stabilisers, penetrants and corrosion inhibitors. Suspension concentrates are usually compounded so as to obtain a stable, non-sedimenting flowable product and usually contain 10-75% w active ingredient, 0.5-15% w of dispersing agents, 0.1-10% w of suspending agents such as
30 protective colloids and thixotropic agents, 0-10% w of other additives such as defoamers, corrosion inhibitors, stabilisers, penetrants and stickers, and water or an organic liquid in which the active ingredient is substantially insoluble; certain organic solids or inorganic salts may be present dissolved in the
35

formulation to assist in preventing sedimentation or as anti-freeze agents for water.

Aqueous dispersions and emulsions, for example compositions obtained by diluting a wettable powder or a concentrate according to the invention with water, also lie within the scope of the invention. The said emulsions may be of the water-in-oil or of the oil-in-water type, and may have a thick 'mayonnaise' like consistency.

The composition of the invention may also contain other ingredients, for example other compounds possessing herbicidal, insecticidal or fungicidal properties.

Of particular interest in enhancing the duration of the protective activity of the compounds of this invention is the use of a carrier which will provide a slow release of the fungicidal compounds into the environment of the plant which is to be protected. Such slow-release formulations could, for example, be inserted in the soil adjacent to the roots of a vine plant, or could include an adhesive component enabling them to be applied directly to the stem of a vine plant.

The invention still further provides the use as a fungicide of a compound of the general formula I as defined above or a composition as defined above, and a method for combating fungus at a locus, which comprises treating the locus, which may be for example plants subject to or subjected to fungal attack, seeds of such plants or the medium in which such plants are growing or are to be grown, with such a compound or composition. A locus as described above may suitably be treated with a compound I at an application rate in the range 0.05 to 4 kg/ha, preferably 0.1 to 1 kg/ha.

The present invention is of wide applicability in the protection of crop plants against fungal attack. Typical crops which may be protected include vines, grain crops such as wheat and barley, apples and tomatoés. The duration of protection is normally dependent on the individual compound selected, and also a variety of external factors, such as climate, whose impact is

normally mitigated by the use of a suitable formulation.

The invention is further illustrated by the following examples.

Example 1

Preparation of 3-methoxy-4-propanamido-1-azoxycyanobenzene

5 (Position of -NHCOR group = 4; R = -C₂H₅; R¹ = 3-OCH₃; R² = H)

3-Methoxy-4-propanamido-1-nitrosobenzene (2.7 g, 13.0 mmol) and cyanamide (0.51 g, 11.8 mmol) were dissolved in dichloromethane (60 ml). A solution of iodobenzene diacetate (5.34 g, 14.6 mmol) in dichloromethane was added dropwise at 0°-5°C under nitrogen.

10 The mixture was stirred overnight at ambient temperature, filtered and evaporated to dryness. Column chromatography on silica using 1:1 petroleum ether : ethyl acetate as eluant gave 2.0 g (62% yield) 3-methoxy-4-propanamido-1-azoxycyanobenzene as a yellow powder, m.pt.:142-144°C, m/e (M⁺):248

15 ¹H-NMR(CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = 1.20 (t, CH₃); 2.42 (q, CH₂); 3.93 (s, OCH₃); 7.67, 7.78, 8.55 (m, Ar-H); 8.02 (s, NH)

Example 2

Preparation of 3-methoxy-4-(2-chloropropanamido)-1-azoxycyanobenzene

20 (Position of -NHCOR group = 4; R = -CHCl-CH₃; R¹ = 3-OCH₃; R² = H)

3-Methoxy-4-(2-chloropropanamido)-1-nitrosobenzene (6.1 g, 25.1 mmol) was dissolved in dichloromethane (100 ml). Cyanamide (1.02 g, 24.3 mmol) and iodobenzene diacetate (8.9 g, 27.6 mmol) were added. The mixture was then stirred for 1 hour at 0°C and 24 hours at ambient temperature. The resulting yellow suspension was filtered and evaporated to dryness. Column chromatography on silica using toluene as eluant gave 3.4 g (47% yield) 3-methoxy-4-(2-chloropropanamido)-1-azoxycyanobenzene as a yellow solid, m.pt.:151°C, m/e(M⁺):282/285.

25
30 ¹H-NMR(CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = 3.92 (s, OCH₃); 7.38, 7.60-7.90 (m, Ar-H); 8.12 (s, NH)

Example 3

Preparation of 3-propanamido-4-methoxy-1-azoxycyanobenzene

(Position of -NHCOR group = 3; R = -C₂H₅; R¹ = 4-OCH₃; R² = H)

(a) Preparation of 3-propanamido-4-methoxy-1-azocyanobenzene

3-Propanamido-4-methoxy-1-aminobenzene (3.0 g, 15.4 mmol) was dissolved in a mixture of water (3.8 ml) and hydrochloric acid (4.4 ml, 35% w/w). After the addition of crushed ice (17 g), the solution was diazotised by addition of sodium nitrite (1.09 g, 15.7 mmol). The chilled solution was neutralised with sodium hydroxide (10% w/w), trichloromethane (40 ml) was added and the reaction mixture was cooled to about 0°C. After the addition of potassium cyanide (1.0g, 15.4 mmol) dissolved in water (7.5 ml), the organic layer was separated, dried over sodium sulphate, evaporated to dryness and filtered to give 3.35 g (93.6% yield) 3-propanamido-4-methoxy-1-azocyanobenzene as orange crystals.

(b) Preparation of 3-propanamido-4-methoxy-1-azoxycyanobenzene

The crude 3-propanamido-4-methoxy-1-azocyanobenzene (1.0 g, 4.3 mmol) obtained in (a) above was suspended in a mixture of methanoic acid (10 ml) and hydrogen peroxide (5 ml, 30 wt%). The mixture was heated to 60°C for 24 hours and then cooled in an ice bath. The resulting crystals were collected and washed with water to give 0.47 g (44% yield) 3-propanamido-4-methoxy-1-

azoxycyanobenzene as orange crystals, m.pt:186-190°C, m/e(M⁺):248.
¹H-NMR(CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = 1.25(t, CH₃-C); 2.45(q, COCH₂); 4.05 (s, OCH₃);
6.93, 7.98(m, Ar-H); 9.35(s, NH)

Examples 4 to 25

By processes similar to those described in Examples 1 to 3 above, further compounds according to the invention were prepared as detailed in Table I below. In this table the compounds are identified by reference to formula I. Melting point, mass spectroscopy (m/e) and ¹H-NMR data for the compounds of Examples 4 to 25 are given in Table IA below.

TABLE I

(N.B. In all the following examples the group -NHCOR is located at the 4- position of the benzene ring relative to the azoxycyano group.)

5

Example No.	R	R ¹	R ²
	4	-CH ₃	3-OCH ₃ H
	5	furan-2-yl	3-OCH ₃ H
10	6	- ⁿ C ₃ H ₇	3-OCH ₃ H
	7	- ⁱ C ₃ H ₇	3-OCH ₃ H
	8	- ⁿ C ₅ H ₁₁	3-OCH ₃ H
	9	- ^t C ₄ H ₉	3-OCH ₃ H
	10	-CH ₂ Cl	3-OCH ₃ H
15	11	-CH=CHCH ₃	3-OCH ₃ H
	12	- ⁿ C ₄ H ₉	3-OCH ₃ H
	13	-CH ₂ COOC ₂ H ₅	3-OCH ₃ H
	14	-CH ₃	3-CH ₃ H
	15	-CH ₃	3-Cl 5-Cl
20	16	-CH ₃	3-Cl H
	17	-CH ₂ CH ₂ Cl	3-OCH ₃ H
	18	2,6-F ₂ phenyl	3-OCH ₃ H
	19	-CH ₂ CH ₂ Br	3-OCH ₃ H
	20	-CH ₂ CH ₂ -cyclopentyl	3-OCH ₃ H
25	21	3,4,6-(CH ₃) ₃ cyclohex-3-enyl	3-OCH ₃ H
	22	3,4,5-(OCH ₃) ₃ phenyl	3-OCH ₃ H
	23	-CH ₃	3-CN H
	24	-C ₂ H ₅	3-CN H
30	25	- ⁿ C ₃ H ₇	3-CN H

TABLE IA

Example No.	M.pt. (°C)	m/e (M ⁺)	¹ H-NMR(CDCl ₃) : δ (ppm)
5			
4		234	2.23(s, CH ₃ CO); 4.08(s, OCH ₃); 7.88, 8.02, 8.50 (m, Ar-H); 9.80(s, NH)
10			
5	155-160	286	4.05(s, OCH ₃); 6.58, 7.30, 7.56, 7.78, 7.98, 8.66(m, Ar-H)
15			
6	144	262	1.00, 1.74, 2.40(m, propyl); 3.98 (s, OCH ₃); 7.70, 7.92, 8.58 (m, Ar-H); 7.99(s, NH)
20			
7	122-125	262	1.26(d, 2xCH ₃); 2.60(septet, CH); 3.98(s, OCH ₃); 7.70, 7.93, 8.59(m, Ar-H); 8.05(s, NH)
25			
8	118-120	290	0.88, 1.35, 1.72, 2.42(m, pentyl); 3.98(s, OCH ₃); 7.69, 7.92, 8.57(m, Ar-H); 8.02(s, NH)
30			
9	155-157	276	1.30(s, t-butyl); 4.02(s, OCH ₃); 7.72, 7.95, 8.60(m, Ar-H); 8.33(s, NH)
35			
10	177-179	269/271	4.03(s, OCH ₃); 4.26(CH ₂ Cl); 7.77, 7.89, 8.55(m, Ar-H); 9.20(s, NH)
35			
11	184-186	260	1.95(m, CH ₃); 4.00(s, OCH ₃); 6.00, 7.05(m, CH=CH); 7.72, 7.96, 8.68(m, Ar-H); 7.99(s, NH)

TABLE IA (continued)

Example No.	M.pt. (°C)	m/e (M ⁺)	¹ H-NMR(CDCl ₃) : δ (ppm)
5			
12	145-147	276	0.93, 1.38, 1.72, 2.43(m), 3.98(s, OCH ₃); 7.70, 7.95, 8.60(m, Ar-H); 8.00(s, NH)
10			
13	133-136	306	1.31(t, CH ₃); 4.25(q, CH ₂); 4.02(s, OCH ₃); 7.72, 7.93, 8.55(m, Ar-H); 10.09(s, NH)
14	199-203	218	2.12(s, CH ₃); 2.32(s, COCH ₃); 8.10(m, Ar-H); 9.46(s, NH)
15			
15	225-226		2.17(s, CH ₃ CO); (35/37Cl) 8.48(s, Ar-H); 10.28(s, NH)
20			
16	168-170	238/240	2.23(s, CH ₃ CO); 8.20-8.40(m, Ar-H); 9.92(s, NH)
17	208-211		
25			
18	202-204		
19	167-170		
30			
20	123		
35			

TABLE IA (continued)

Example No.	M.pt. (°C)	m/e (M ⁺)	¹ H-NMR(CDCl ₃) : δ(ppm)
5	21	175	
	22	188-193	
10	23	195-200	
	24	201	
15	25	173-176	
20			

Example 26

The fungicidal activity of compounds of the invention was investigated by means of the following tests.

- 25 (a) Direct protectant activity against broad bean grey mould
(Botrytis cinerea; BCB)

The test is a direct protectant one using a foliar spray. The upper surfaces of leaves of broad bean plants (cv The Sutton) are sprayed with a solution of the test compound in 1:1 water/acetone containing 0.04% "TWEEN 20" (Trade Mark; a polyoxyethylene sorbitan ester surfactant). Plants are treated using an automated sprayline with an atomising nozzle. The concentration of the compound is 1000 ppm and the spray volume is 700 l/ha. 24 hours after spraying the leaves are inoculated with an aqueous suspension containing 10⁵ conidia/ml. For 4 days after inoculation plants are kept moist in

30

35

a humidity cabinet at 21°C. Disease is assessed 4 days after inoculation, based on the percentage of leaf surface area covered by lesions.

(b) Activity against tomato early blight (*Alternaria solani*; AS)

5 This test measures the contact prophylactic activity of test compounds applied as a foliar spray. Tomato seedlings (cv Outdoor Girl) are grown to the stage at which the second true leaf is expanded. The plants are treated using an automated sprayline as described under (a). Test compounds are applied as solutions or
10 suspensions in a mixture of acetone and water (50:50 v/v) containing 0.04% surfactant ("TWEEN 20" - Trade Mark). One day after treatment the seedlings are inoculated by spraying the leaf upper surfaces with a suspension of *A. solani* conidia containing 10^4 spores/ml. For 4 days after inoculation plants are kept moist
15 in a humidity compartment at 21°C. Disease is assessed 4 days after inoculation, based on the percentage of leaf surface area covered by lesions.

(c) Activity against wheat eyespot in-vitro
(*Pseudocercospora herpotrichoides*; PHI)

20 This test measures the in vitro activity of compounds against the fungus causing wheat eyespot. The test compound is dissolved or suspended in acetone and is added into 4 ml aliquots of half strength Potato Dextrose Broth dispensed in 25-compartment petri dishes to give a final concentration of 50 ppm compound and 2.5%
25 acetone. Each compartment is inoculated with a 6 mm diameter plug of agar/mycelium taken from a 14 day old culture of *P. herpotrichoides*. Plates are incubated at 20°C for 12 days until the assessment of mycelial growth.

The extent of disease control in all the above tests is
30 expressed as a rating compared with either an untreated control or a diluent-sprayed-control, according to the criteria:-

0 = less than 50% disease control

1 = about 50-80% disease control

2 = greater than 80% disease control

35 The results of these tests are set out in Table II below:-

TABLE II

Example No.	Fungicidal Activity		
	BCB	AS	PHI
5			
4	2	2	2

Example 27

10 The fungicidal activity of compounds of the invention was further investigated by means of the following tests.

(a) Direct protectant activity against tomato late blight
(Phytophthora infestans; PIP)

The test is a direct protectant one using a foliar spray.

15 Tomato plants with two expanded leaves (cv. First in the Field) are sprayed with a solution of the test compound in 1:1 water/acetone containing 0.04% "TWEEN 20" (Trade Mark; a polyoxyethylene sorbitan ester surfactant). Plants are sprayed using a track sprayer equipped with 2 air-atomising nozzles. The
20 concentration of the compound is 600 ppm and the spray volume is 750 l/ha. After drying, the plants are kept for 24 hours in a glasshouse at 20°C and 40% relative humidity. The upper surfaces of the leaves are then inoculated with an aqueous suspension containing 2×10^5 zoospores/ml. The inoculated plants are kept
25 for 24 hours at 18°C in a high humidity cabinet and then for 5 days in a growth chamber at 15°C and 80% relative humidity with 14 hours light/day. The assessment is based on the percentage of diseased leaf area compared with that on control leaves.

(b) Activity against tomato early blight (Alternaria solani; AS)

30 The test is a direct prophylactic one using a foliar spray. Tomato seedlings (cv Outdoor Girl), at the stage at which the second leaf is expanded, are sprayed with the test compound at a dosage of 600ppm as described under (a). After drying, the plants are kept for 24 hours in a glasshouse at 20°C and 40% relative
35 humidity followed by inoculation of the leaf upper surfaces with an

aqueous suspension of A. solani conidia containing 1×10^4 conidia/ml. After 4 days in a high humidity cabinet at 21°C, disease is assessed based on the percentage of leaf surface area covered by lesions when compared with control plants.

5 (c) Direct protectant activity against broad bean grey mould
(Botrytis cinerea; BCB)

The test is a direct protectant one using a foliar spray. Broad bean plants (cv The Sutton) with two leaf pairs are sprayed with the test compound at a dosage of 600 ppm as described under
10 (a). After drying, the plants are kept for 24 hours in a glasshouse at 20°C and 40% relative humidity. The upper surface of the leaves are then inoculated with an aqueous suspension containing 1×10^6 conidia/ml. Plants are kept for 4 days at 22°C in a high humidity cabinet. The assessment is based on the
15 percentage of diseased leaf area compared with that on control leaves.

(d) Activity against wheat leafspot (Leptosphaeria nodorum; LN.)

The test is a direct therapeutic one using a foliar spray. Wheat seedlings (cv Norman), at the single leaf stage, are
20 inoculated with an aqueous suspension containing 1.5×10^6 conidia/ml. The inoculated plants are kept for 24 hours at 20°C in a high humidity cabinet followed by spraying with the test compound at a dosage of 600 ppm as described under (a). After drying, the plants are kept for 6-8 days in a glasshouse at 22°C and 70%
25 relative humidity. Assessment is based on the density of lesions per leaf compared with that on leaves of control plants.

(e) Activity against rice leaf blast (Pyricularia oryzae; PO)

The test is a direct therapeutic one using a foliar spray. The leaves of rice seedlings (cv Aichiaishi - about 30 seedlings
30 per pot) are sprayed with an aqueous suspension containing 10^5 spores/ml 20-24 hours prior to treatment with the test compound. The inoculated plants are kept overnight in high humidity and then allowed to dry before spraying with the test compound at a dosage of 1000 ppm using an automated sprayline as described under (a).
35 After treatment the plants are kept in a rice compartment at

25-30°C and high humidity. Assessments are made 4-5 days after treatment and are based on the density of necrotic lesions per leaf when compared with control plants.

(f) Activity against wheat eyespot in-vitro

5 (Pseudocercospora herpotrichoides; PHI)

This test measures the in vitro activity of compounds against the fungus causing wheat eyespot. The test compound is dissolved or suspended in acetone and is added into 4 ml aliquots of half strength Potato Dextrose Broth dispensed in 25-compartment petri dishes to give a final concentration of 10 ppm test compound and 0.825% acetone. The fungal inoculum consists of mycelial fragments of P. herpotrichoides grown in half strength Potato Dextrose Broth in shaken flasks and added to the broth to provide 5×10^4 mycelial fragments/ml broth. Petri dishes are incubated at 20°C for 10 days until the assessment of mycelial growth.

(g) Activity against Rhizoctonia in-vitro (Rhizoctonia solani: RSI)

The test measures the in-vitro activity of compounds against Rhizoctonia solani that causes stem and root rots. The test compound is dissolved or suspended in acetone and added into 4ml aliquots of half strength Potato Dextrose Broth dispensed in 25-compartment petri dishes to give a final concentration of 10 ppm compound and 0.825% acetone. The fungal inoculum consists of mycelial fragments of R. solani grown in half strength Potato Dextrose Broth in shaken culture flasks and added to the broth to provide 5×10^4 fragments/ml broth. Petri dishes are incubated at 20°C for 10 days until the assessment of mycelial growth.

(h) Activity against apple scab in-vitro (Venturia inaequalis; VII)

This test measures the in-vitro activity of compounds against Venturia inaequalis that causes apple scab. The test compound is dissolved or suspended in acetone and added into 4ml aliquots of half strength Potato Dextrose Broth dispensed in 25-compartment petri dishes to give a final concentration of 10ppm compound and 0.825% acetone. The fungal inoculum consists of mycelial fragments

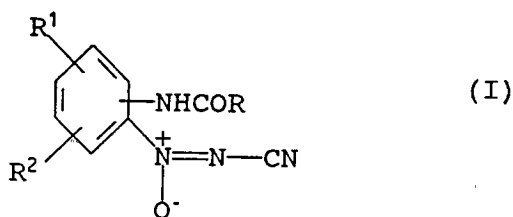
TABLE III (continued)

Example No.	Fungicidal Activity							
	PIP	AS	BCB	LN	PO	PHI	RSI	VII
19	2	2	1			1	1	2
20	1							1
21	2		2					
22								2
23	1		1			2	2	2
24	1		1			2	2	2
25	2	2			1	2	2	2

~~CLAIMS~~

The claims defining the invention are as follows:

1. A compound of general formula



in which

R represents an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl or heterocyclyl group;

R¹ represents a halogen atom, nitro, cyano or optionally substituted alkyl, alkoxy, aryl or aryloxy group;

and

R² represents a hydrogen or halogen atom, nitro, cyano or optionally substituted alkyl or alkoxy group.

2. A compound according to claim 1 in which R represents a C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, C₃₋₈ cycloalkenyl or phenyl group or a 3- to 6-membered heterocyclic ring, each group or ring being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halogen atoms, nitro, cyano, hydroxyl, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ haloalkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, C₁₋₄ haloalkoxy, amino, C₁₋₄ alkylamino, di-C₁₋₄ alkylamino, C₁₋₄ alkoxy-carbonyl and C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl groups.

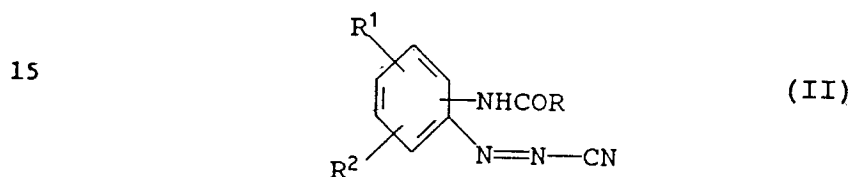
3. A compound according to claim 1 or claim 2 in which R¹ represents a halogen atom, a nitro or cyano group, or a C₁₋₆ alkyl or C₁₋₆ alkoxy group each optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halogen atoms, nitro, cyano, hydroxyl and amino groups.

4. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims in which R² represents a hydrogen or halogen atom.

5. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims in which R represents a methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, pentyl, chloromethyl, chloroethyl, bromoethyl, ethoxycarbonylmethyl, cyclopentylethyl, propenyl, trimethylcyclohexenyl, difluorophenyl, trimethoxyphenyl or furanyl group; R¹ represents a chlorine atom or a cyano, methyl or methoxy group; and R² represents a hydrogen or chlorine atom.

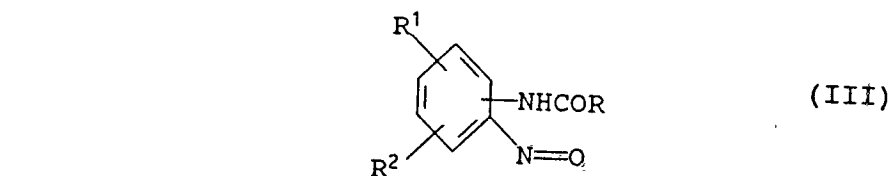
6. A compound according to claim 1 as named in any one of Examples 1 to 25.

7. A process for the preparation of a compound of general formula I according to any one of the preceding claims which comprises treating a compound of general formula



18 in which R, R¹ and R² are as defined in any one of the preceding claims with a mixture comprising hydrogen peroxide and methanoic acid and/or with peroxymethanoic acid.

20 8. A process for the preparation of a compound of general formula I according to any one of claims 1 to 6 which comprises reacting a compound of general formula



30 in which R, R¹ and R² are as defined in any one of claims 1 to 6, with cyanamide or a metal salt thereof and an oxidising agent.

35 9. A process according to claim 7 or claim 8 substantially as hereinbefore described and with reference to any one of Examples 1 to 3.

- 10. A compound of formula I whenever prepared by a process according to any one of claims 7 to 9.
- 11. A fungicidal composition which comprises a carrier and, as active ingredient, a compound of general formula I as defined in any one of claims 1 to 6 and 10.
- 12. A composition according to claim 11 which comprises at least two carriers, at least one of which is a surface active agent.
- 13. A method of combating fungus at a locus which comprises treating the locus with a compound of general formula I as defined in any one of claims 1 to 6 and 10 or with a composition as defined in claim 11 or claim 12.
- 14. A method according to claim 13 in which the locus comprises plants subject to or subjected to fungal attack, seeds of such plants or the medium in which the plants are growing or are to be grown.
- ~~15. Use as a fungicide of a compound of general formula I as defined in any one of claims 1 to 6 and 10 or of a composition as defined in claim 11 or claim 12.~~

DATED this FIFTH day of AUGUST 1994

Shell Internationale Research Maatschappij B.V.

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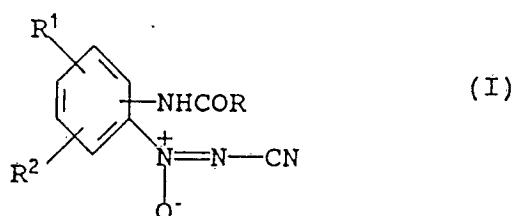


PS28/TS8007

A B S T R A C T

AZOXYCYANOBENZENE DERIVATIVES

This invention relates to certain azoxycyanobenzene derivatives of the general formula.



5 in which R represents an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl or heterocyclyl group; R¹ represents a halogen atom, nitro, cyano or optionally substituted alkyl, alkoxy, aryl or aryloxy group; and R² represents a hydrogen or halogen atom, nitro, cyano or optionally substituted alkyl or alkoxy group; process for their preparation, compositions
10 containing such compounds and their use as fungicides.